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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	09/261,068
	Filing Date	March 2, 1999
	First Named Inventor	Vijay K. Mahant et al.
	Group Art Unit	1641
	Examiner Name	G. Gabel
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	8	Attorney Docket Number 560.02-US1

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Patent
Attny. Dkt. No. 560.02-US1

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Inventor: **Mahant, V.**

Serial No: **09/261,068**

Filed: **03/02/99**

For: **Methods and Apparatus for
Separation of Biological Fluids**

Examiner: **Gabel, G.**

Art Unit: **1641**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

The Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper responds to the Office Action dated July 9, 1999, Paper No. 3. Please enter the following:

IN THE CLAIMS

- a' 1. (Amended) A method of separating a sample containing blood cells into a cell containing portion and a substantially cell depleted portion comprising:
- receiving the sample in a vessel;
- providing an additive and particles, wherein the additive has substantial binding to the cells and the particles and wherein the particles have substantial binding to the cells and the additive.
- combining the sample, [an] the additive, and [a plurality of] the particles[, each of the additive, the particles, and the cells having a substantial binding to another of the additive, the particles and the cells] to produce a cell containing network; and
- separating the network from the substantially cell depleted portion by applying a force, wherein the force comprises [at least in part using] a magnetic force.